



LESSON PLAN

Military Life 101

Topic: **Military Deployments**
Subject: **Language Arts/Social Studies**

Grade Level: **High School**
Time: **Two 50-minute class periods**

OBJECTIVE(S):

Students will learn about military life and the sacrifices families make by watching the story of a teen who struggles to balance her personal life and her home life during her father's deployment. This lesson can be tied to a major national holiday, such as Veterans Day.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- The *Baseball or the Band?* video from the MilitaryKidsConnect.org website
- "Story Map Worksheet"
- Go to "Related Materials" in on-line version of this lesson plan to access all required links:
www.militarykidsconnect.org/p/lp/high

OTHER RESOURCES REQUIRED:

- Computer with classroom display and Internet access

LESSON

Suggested Activity Set-up and Discussion (10 minutes)

Teacher-Led Discussion

- Refer to the upcoming Veterans Day holiday and ask students if they know the difference between Veterans Day and Memorial Day
 - Memorial Day honors those who died while serving in the military, particularly those who died in battle
 - Veterans Day is largely meant to honor living veterans who served, whether in peacetime or wartime
- Veterans Day also provides an opportunity to reflect on those currently serving
- Ask if students know anyone in the military. What do they do? Where are they located?
- Define deployment: when a service member has to be relocated.
 - During times of war, service members might be deployed in areas of conflict.
 - Deployments often last a year or more.
- Tell students they are going to watch a video about the pressures on one family while the father's deployed, from the point of view of the teenage daughter

Video (10 minutes)

- Cue and screen *Baseball or the Band?* Video, including the three possible endings

Class Discussion (5 minutes)

- What's the basic dilemma Anna faces?
- Anna loves her father, but also is angry with him for being away. Do you think those conflicting emotions are common in military families? What about the other members of Anna's family? Can you tell from the video how they feel about the dad being deployed?

Small-Group Activity (25 minutes)

- Distribute the "Story Map Worksheet"
- Divide students into small groups and instruct them that:
 - They are to use the MilitaryKidsConnect.org website and other sources (online or print) to gather information about military life.
 - Using what they learn and the "Story Map Worksheet," groups are to create a deployment dilemma with a teen as the main character and three possible endings.
 - They have 1 week to complete the assignment and should be prepared to present – and act out, if desired—their scenario before the entire class.

WORKSHEET

Story Map

Names: _____

MAJOR CHARACTER'S DESCRIPTION:

MINOR CHARACTERS' DESCRIPTIONS:

MAJOR CHARACTER'S PROBLEM/DILEMMA:

ENDING #1:

ENDING #2:

ENDING #3: